



HB 771- Public Health - Opioid Overdoses - Prohibition and Rehabilitation Order

<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/webmga/frmMain.aspx?id=hb0771&stab=01&pid=billpage&tab=subject3&ys=2018RS>

House Health and Government Operations Committee

Oppose

February 27, 2018

Testimony in opposition to House Bill 771 on behalf of the Maryland-DC Society of Addiction Medicine, a professional society of physicians and associated health professionals in the field of addiction medicine; a chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine

MDDCSAM opposes House Bill 771. Criminalizing overdosing does not further efforts to address this chronic disorder as a health problem. It instead continues to stigmatize the disease and has the unintended consequence of scaring people away from calling for help in an emergency. While a \$50 citation does not seem like a serious consequence, it unfortunately does not take much for people in our communities who are involved in illegal activities to be deterred from calling 911, even when someone's life is at risk.

MDDCSAM supports efforts to increase local crisis response services, including expanding the peer recovery workforce to provide intervention after a person survives an overdose. This committee will have the opportunity to support legislation to make this happen. We urge you to put your efforts into these positive measures and give HB 771 an unfavorable report.
